

What is Claimed Is:

Sub 2 1. A method comprising:

2 receiving a data frame on a receive port from a first
3 device connected to a network, said data frame including a source
4 media access control (MAC) address for said first device and a
5 destination MAC address for a second device connected to said
6 network;

7 forwarding said data frame to a target port corresponding
8 to said second device; and

9 learning said source MAC address locally to said target
10 port.

1 2. The method of claim 1, said learning step comprising:
2 determining whether said source MAC address is present
3 in a database local to said target port; and
4 recording said source MAC address in said local
5 database if not present.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising performing
2 frame forwarding using said locally-learned MAC address.

1 4. The method of claim 2, further comprising aging said
2 MAC address locally.

6 media access control (MAC) address for said first device and a
7 destination MAC address for a second device connected to said
8 network;

9 forwarding said data frame to a target port corresponding
10 to said second device; and

11 learning said source MAC address locally to said target
12 port.

1 15. The computer-usable medium of claim 14, said learning
2 step comprising:

3 determining whether said source MAC address is present
4 in a database local to said target port; and

5 recording said source MAC address in said local
6 database if not present.

1 16. The computer-usable medium of claim 14, said method
2 further comprising performing frame forwarding using said locally-
3 learned MAC address.

1 17. The computer-usable medium of claim 14, said method
2 further comprising aging said MAC address locally.

1 18. The computer-usable medium of claim 14, said method
2 further comprising:

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3 bundling a pre-determined number of said MAC
4 addresses into a reply in response to a report request from a control
5 point; and
6 transmitting said reply to said control point.

1 19. The computer-usable medium of claim 18, said method
2 further comprising:

3 compiling a plurality of said replies into an aggregate
4 database; and

5 reporting said aggregate database to a network user or
6 manager.

1 20. The computer-usable medium of claim 18, wherein said
2 report request is issued at time intervals which are configurable by a
3 network user.